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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/667,770	09/22/2000	Mitsuaki Komino	PM 272798 EL00006CDC	8174

909 7590 12/18/2002
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EXAMINER

ZERVIGON, RUDY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1763	

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/667,770	KOMINO ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Rudy Zervigon	1763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-4,7,11-15,21,23-25,27 and 29-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-4,7,11-15,21,23-25,27 and 29-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 04 October 2002 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 14.
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 3, 4, 7, 11-13, 15, 21, 23, 24, 27, 32-36, 38, 39, and 42-45 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered references to McMillin et al (USPat. 5,835,334), Shamoulian et al (USPat. 5,745,331), Mori et al (USPat. 5,935,460), Niori et al (USPat. 5,800,618), and Lei et al (USPat. 5,556,476). Rejections based on the newly cited references follow.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14 may depend from claim 1. Claim 1 is cancelled by amendment on page 1 of paper 9. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 36 is objected to because of the following informalities: item "(58; 126)" should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 39 recites the limitation "said labyrinth heat transfer space". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 2, 14, 25, 29, 30, 31, 37, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375). Heimanson teaches an electrode structure ("chuck", 20) with a conductor unit (24, "stainless steel"; column 3, lines 24-25) and placement table (Figure 1) having a heater unit (28) therein; a cooling block (34) joined to a conductor unit and having a cooling jacket (38) which cools said electrode unit; a heat transfer space (50) provided on at least one of opposite surfaces of the conductor unit (Figure 1) and said cooling block; and conductor-side heat transfer gas supply means (92, 72, 76, 84) for supplying a heat transfer gas to the heat transfer space. Heimanson further teaches a center of the placement table held by a column (transmission column of 108), where the column is shown connected to the cooling block via a heat conducting member (56). Heimanson further teaches a chuck (20/56, Figure 2; column 3, line 55 – column 4, line 3) and chuck-side heat transfer gas supply (30, Fig.1). Heimanson further teaches pressure sensors (68, 78; Figure 1; column 4, line 17) and controller (92) for pressure setting (column 4, lines 16-35). Heimanson further teaches a heater unit (114, Figure 4; column 5, lines 9-33) divided into concentric zones (118, 120) controlled independently (122, 124) and seal members (44, Figure 1,3).

Heimanson et al does not teach a heat transfer space (50) formed by a concentric or spiral groove. Further, Heimanson et al does not teach a high-frequency source applying a high-frequency voltage to Heimanson's conducting unit.

Gilchrist teaches an electrode unit (15, Figure 1) that interfaces with the substrate, and specifically teaches a labyrinth transfer space (32A-D; Figure 1) formed by concentric (Figure 2, 5) grooves. The heat transfer space is divided into concentric zones (32A-D; Figure 1) controllable on an individual basis (column 4, lines 35-45). Further, Gilchrist teaches a high-frequency source (30) applying a high-frequency voltage to an electrode unit (14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's heat transfer space with Gilchrist's labyrinth heat transfer space and use a high-frequency source to apply a high-frequency voltage to Heimanson's conducting unit as taught by Gilchrist.

Motivation to replace Heimanson's heat transfer space with Gilchrist's labyrinth heat transfer space and use a high-frequency source to apply a high-frequency voltage to Heimanson's conducting unit as taught by Gilchrist is to optimize temperature control for a particular etching or deposition process as taught by Gilchrist (column 4, lines 49-54) and to increase plasma ionization with the high-frequency voltage. Further, it would be obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the operation of the claimed invention (In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980); In re Hoeschele, 406 F.2d 1403, 160 USPQ 809 (CCPA 1969); Merck & Co. Inc. v. Biocraft Laboratories Inc., 874 F.2d 804, 10 USPQ2d 1843 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 975 (1989); In re Kulling, 897 F.2d 1147, 14 USPQ2d 1056 (Fed. Cir. 1990), MPEP 2144.05).

7. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of McMillin

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et al (USPat. 5,835,334). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson further teaches a stainless steel member (36a, Figures 1,3; column 3, lines 33-37) provided between a conducting part (24, column 3, lines 33-37) and the cooling block (34/36b, Figure 1,3). As a result, Heimanson does not teach his stainless steel member as being made from an electrically insulating material such as aluminum nitride which is taught in the specification (Page 28, lines 9-10) to have the prescribed coefficient of thermal conductivity of 80W/mk. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach an insulating member that divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space.

McMillin teaches a variable high temperature chuck used in high density plasma operations (title, Figure 1). Specifically, McMillin teaches an electrically insulating material being aluminum nitride as a component of the chuck (column 3, lines 40-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Heimanson and Gilchrist to replace the stainless steel member (36a) of Heimanson and Gilchrist with aluminum nitride as taught by McMillin.

Motivation for Heimanson and Gilchrist to replace the stainless steel member (36a) of Heimanson and Gilchrist with aluminum nitride as taught by McMillin is to provide for an alternate material of construction.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Heimanson and Gilchrist to replace Heimanson's cooling block (34/36b, Figure 1,3) with Gilchrist's cooling block (15, Figure 1) and provide additional o-ring seals (Heimanson item 44,

Figure 1) between the cooling block and the stainless steel members such that an insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space.

Motivation for Heimanson and Gilchrist to replace Heimanson's cooling block with Gilchrist's cooling block is to provide enhanced heat transfer control as taught by Gilchrist (column 4, lines 18-45).

Motivation for Heimanson and Gilchrist to provide additional o-ring seals between the cooling block and the stainless steel members such that an insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space is for providing additional convective heat transfer (column 4, lines 4-15).

8. Claims 7 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Shamouilian et al (USPat. 5,745,331). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. However, Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach a surface roughness of a member defining the heat transfer space as being smaller than 2.0 μ m. Shamouilian teaches a similar electrostatic chuck with a heat transfer space defined by a member (80; Figure 2a). Specifically, Shamouilian teaches a surface roughness of his member defining the heat transfer space as being smaller than 2.0 μ m (column 8, lines 45-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to machine the member defining the heat transfer space of Heimanson to a surface roughness of smaller than 2.0 μ m as taught by Shamouilian.

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Motivation to machine the member defining the heat transfer space of Heimanson to a surface roughness of a smaller than $2.0\mu\text{m}$ is to enhance heat transfer as taught by Shamoulian (column 8, lines 55-60).

9. Claims 11, 12, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090) and Mori et al (USPat. 5,935,460). Heimanson is discussed above. However, Heimanson does not teach metallic seal members and metallic seal members with a fluoride passivation film providing a corrosion resistant film made of nickel fluoride. Sherman teaches a similar electrostatic chuck (Figure 1) including seal members (28) that can be metallic (column 6, lines 45-48). However, Sherman does not teach metallic seal members with a fluoride passivation film providing a corrosion resistant film made of nickel fluoride. Mori teaches a plasma machining apparatus (Figure 1; column 4, lines 14-41). Specifically, Mori teaches a nickel fluoride insulator coating (34; Figure 32b; column 21, lines 44-54) over a plasma facing surface of an electrode (1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's organic seal member (44) with a nickel fluoride protected metallic seal member as taught by Sherman and Mori.

Motivation to replace Heimanson's organic seal member with a nickel fluoride protected metallic seal member as taught by Sherman and Mori is to provide protection from fluorine gas as discussed by Mori (column 21, lines 45-50).

10. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090) and Mori et al (USPat. 5,935,460). Heimanson is discussed above. However, Heimanson does not teach

metallic seal members and metallic seal members covered by a soft metal film made of a material having a softening point lower than a process temperature of the object to be processed. Sherman teaches a similar electrostatic chuck (Figure 1) including seal members (28) that can be metallic (column 6, lines 45-48). However, Sherman does not teach metallic seal members covered by a soft metal film made of a material having a softening point lower than a process temperature of the object to be processed. Mori teaches a plasma machining apparatus (Figure 1; column 4, lines 14-41). Specifically, Mori teaches a nickel fluoride insulator coating (34; Figure 32b; column 21, lines 44-54) over a plasma facing surface of an electrode (1) which is a soft metal film made of a material having a softening point lower than a process temperature of the object to be processed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's organic seal member (44) with a nickel fluoride protected metallic seal member which is a soft metal film made of a material having a softening point lower than a process temperature of the object to be processed as taught by Sherman and Mori.

Motivation to replace Heimanson's organic seal member with a nickel fluoride protected metallic seal member which is a soft metal film made of a material having a softening point lower than a process temperature of the object to be processed, as taught by Sherman and Mori, is to provide protection from fluorine gas as discussed by Mori (column 21, lines 45-50).

11. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Niori et al (USPat. 5,800,618). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach an electrode unit having a ceramic heater unit therein. Niori teaches a plasma generating body

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(14, Figure 4) including an electrode (15) and heater (19) that are both embedded in ceramic substrate (18; column 14, lines 45-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson and Gilchrist's stainless steel plate with a heater unit therein with Niori's plasma generating body including an electrode and heater that are both embedded in ceramic substrate.

Motivation to replace Heimanson and Gilchrist's stainless steel plate with a heater unit therein with Niori's plasma generating body including an electrode and heater that are both embedded in ceramic substrate is to provide corrosion resistance as taught by Niori (column 8, lines 33-50).

12. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Ishii (USPat. 5,529,657). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. However, Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach that the electrode structure is an upper electrode unit positioned above the object to be processed. Ishii teaches a similar electrode structure (4, Figure 20) which is an upper electrode unit positioned above the object ("W") to be processed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ishii to replace his upper electrode structure with that structure of Heimanson and Gilchrist.

Motivation for Ishii to replace his upper electrode structure with that structure of Heimanson and Gilchrist is to provide improved temperature control as taught by Heimanson and Gilchrist (above).

13. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090), McMillin et al (USPat. 5,835,334),

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and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375). Heimanson is discussed above. Heimanson does not teach seal members that are metallic. Sherman teaches a similar electrostatic chuck (Figure 1) including seal members (28) that can be metallic (column 6, lines 45-48). Heimanson does not teach Heimanson's stainless steel member as being made from an electrically insulating material such as aluminum nitride which is taught in the specification (Page 28, lines 9-10) to have the prescribed coefficient of thermal conductivity of 80W/mk. Heimanson does not teach that an insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space. McMillin teaches a variable high temperature chuck used in high density plasma operations (title, Figure 1). Specifically, McMillin teaches an electrically insulating material being aluminum nitride as a component of the chuck (column 3, lines 40-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's organic seal member (44) with a metallic seal member as taught by Sherman.

Motivation to replace Heimanson's organic seal member with a metallic seal member is to provide for an alternate material of construction as taught by Sherman.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use aluminum nitride material instead of Heimanson's stainless steel for an insulating member as taught by McMillin.

Motivation to use aluminum nitride material instead of stainless steel for an insulating member as taught by McMillin is to provide for an alternate material of construction.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Heimanson, Sherman, and McMillin to provide additional o-ring seals (Heimanson item 44,

Figure 1) between the cooling block and the aluminum nitride insulating member such that the insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space.

Motivation for Heimanson, Sherman, and McMillin to provide additional o-ring seals (Heimanson item 44, Figure 1) between the cooling block and the aluminum nitride insulating member such that the insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space is to provide additional heat transfer control as demonstrated by Gilchrist (column 4, lines 18-45).

14. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) and McMillin et al (USPat. 5,835,334). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach Heimanson's stainless steel member as being made from an electrically insulating material such as aluminum nitride which is taught in the specification (Page 28, lines 9-10) to have the prescribed coefficient of thermal conductivity of 80W/mk. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach that an insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space. McMillin teaches a variable high temperature chuck used in high density plasma operations (title, Figure 1). Specifically, McMillin teaches an electrically insulating material being aluminum nitride as a component of the chuck (column 3, lines 40-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use aluminum nitride material instead of Heimanson's stainless steel for an insulating member as taught by McMillin.

Motivation to use aluminum nitride material instead of stainless steel for an insulating member as taught by McMillin is to provide for an alternate material of construction.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Heimanson, Gilchrist, and McMillin to provide additional o-ring seals (Heimanson item 44, Figure 1) between the cooling block and the aluminum nitride insulating member such that the insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space.

Motivation for Heimanson, Gilchrist, and McMillin to provide additional o-ring seals (Heimanson item 44, Figure 1) between the cooling block and the aluminum nitride insulating member such that the insulating member divides the heat transfer space into an upper and a lower space is to provide additional heat transfer control as demonstrated by Gilchrist (column 4, lines 18-45).

15. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090) and Husain et al (USPat. 5,548,470). Heimanson and Sherman are discussed above. However, Heimanson and Sherman do not teach a contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures described above. Husain teaches an electrostatic chuck (Figure 2A) including teachings of how interfacial contact area fractions can influence heat transfer rates and thus the control of the wafer temperature (column 2, lines 21-49; column 7, lines 50-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to vary the contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures of Heimanson and Sherman, described above, as taught by Husain.

Motivation to vary the contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures of Heimanson and Sherman, described above, as taught by Husain is to influence the heat transfer between the parts (column 9, lines 45-50).

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16. Claims 35 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Husain et al (USPat. 5,548,470). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. However Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach a contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures described above. Husain teaches an electrostatic chuck (Figure 2A) including teachings of how interfacial contact area fractions can influence heat transfer rates and thus the control of the wafer temperature (column 2, lines 21-49; column 7, lines 50-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to vary the contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures of Heimanson and Gilchrist, described above, as taught by Husain.

Motivation to vary the contact rate between interfacing surfaces of the structures of Heimanson and Gilchrist, described above, as taught by Husain is to influence the heat transfer between the parts (column 9, lines 45-50).

17. Claims 36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090). Heimanson is discussed above. However, Heimanson does not teach metallic seal members. Sherman teaches a similar electrostatic chuck (Figure 1) including seal members (28) that can be metallic (column 6, lines 45-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's organic seal member (44) with a metallic seal member as taught by Sherman.

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Motivation to replace Heimanson's organic seal member with a metallic seal member as taught by Sherman is to provide for an alternate material of construction.

18. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416) and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090). Heimanson, Sherman, and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach a metallic seal member. Sherman teaches a similar electrostatic chuck (Figure 1) including seal members (28) that can be metallic (column 6, lines 45-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace Heimanson's organic seal member (44) with a metallic seal member as taught by Sherman.

Motivation to replace Heimanson's organic seal member with a metallic seal member as taught by Sherman is to provide for an alternate material of construction.

19. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416), Sherman (USPat. 5,535,090), and Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Lei et al (USPat. 5,556,476). Heimanson, Sherman, and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson, Sherman, and Gilchrist do not teach a gas blower to provide a release of heat. Lei teaches similar substrate support means (Figure 2) including a blower to provide a release of heat (column 8, lines 49-60).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for to add a blower to the apparatus of Heimanson, Sherman, and Gilchrist as taught by Lei.

Motivation to add a blower to the apparatus of Heimanson, Sherman, and Gilchrist as taught by Lei is to maintain chamber components cooled.

20. Claims 43 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimanson et al (USPat. 5,775,416), Gilchrist et al (USPat. 5,846,375) in view of Lei et al (USPat. 5,556,476). Heimanson and Gilchrist are discussed above. Heimanson and Gilchrist do not teach a gas blower to provide a release of heat. Lei teaches similar substrate support means (Figure 2) including a blower to provide a release of heat (column 8, lines 49-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a blower as taught by Lei.

Motivation for Heimanson and Gilchrist to add a blower as taught by Lei is to maintain chamber components cooled.

Response to Arguments

21. Applicant's arguments filed October 4, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are addressed in the body of the above rejections.

Conclusion

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22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Rudy Zervigon whose telephone number is (703) 305-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on a Monday through Thursday schedule from 8am through 7pm. The official after final fax phone number for the 1763 art unit is (703) 872-9311. The official before final fax phone number for the 1763 art unit is (703) 872-9310. Any Inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Chemical and Materials Engineering art unit receptionist at (703) 308-0661. If the examiner can not be reached please contact the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Mills, at (703) 308-1633.



JEFFRIE R. LUND
PRIMARY EXAMINER